UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.5/1997/L.12
4 March 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Thirty-fifth session
25 February-6 March 1997
Agenda item 3 (b)

FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: REVIEW OF RELEVANT UNITED NATIONS PLANS AND PROGRAMMES OF ACTION PERTAINING TO THE SITUATION OF SOCIAL GROUPS

Cuba* and Sudan: draft resolution

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to the International Year of the Family

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 46/92 of 16 December 1991, 47/237 of 20 December 1993 and 50/142 of 21 December 1995, concerning the proclamation, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family,

Recognizing that the basic objective of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family should be to strengthen and support

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* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

families in performing their societal and developmental functions and to build upon their strengths, particularly at the national and local levels,

Emphasizing the necessity of providing policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Noting that the family-related provisions from the outcomes of the seven global conferences of the 1990s highlight the value of a family-sensitive perspective in policy development and implementation,

Noting also that a cornerstone of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family and long-term action regarding families should be the implementation of family goals and objectives resulting from the major global conferences of the 1990s,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of the Family[1] and welcoming the proposals contained therein,

1. Invites Governments to continue their actions to build family-friendly societies, inter alia, by promoting the rights of individual family members, in particular gender equality and the protection and development of the child;

2. Calls upon Governments, non-governmental organizations, other organizations of civil society, the private sector and individuals to contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities;

3. Urges the continuation of long-term actions at all levels concerning families and a focus on the interrelationship of families and society, including the role of families as main providers and consumers of commodities and services and as agents of development;

4. Requests the Secretariat to enhance the resources of the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities and widen its operational activities in developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

5. Invites Governments to develop concrete measures and approaches with respect to addressing national priorities including the elaboration of a country family profile and the strengthening of national capacities to deal with family issues;

6. Recommends that formal and informal networks and institutes such as the International Family Policy Forum, the Bratislava International Centre for Family Studies, the Australian Institute of Family Studies, the Austrian Institute for Family Research, the Confederation of Family

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[1] A/52/57-E/1997/4.

Organizations in the European Community, and similar bodies contribute and participate at all levels of action on families;

7. Urges research and academic institutions to continue to play an active role in the policy process and in strengthening the partnerships between the producers and users of family research and to promote international research on family issues, needs and priorities;

8. Decides that the follow-up of the Commission for Social Development to the International Year of the Family should be an integrated part of the multi-year work programme of the Commission for Social Development and that, at its annual sessions, the Commission should consider the topic of reconciling family life and work under the priority theme "Social integration" in 1998 and the topic of a global profile of family policies and programmes under the priority theme "Social services for all" in 1999, within the framework of assessing the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to enable the Secretariat to play an active role in facilitating international cooperation on the family in the areas of experience and information exchange, including an inventory of best practices of family policies to facilitate exchange of experiences among Member States; technical assistance, with a focus on least developed and developing countries; the organization of subregional and interregional meetings; and the promotion of relevant research that would inform future policy;

10. Calls upon Member States to encourage the identification of appropriate administrative mechanisms and resources to ensure the active follow-up of the International Year of the Family at national and local levels.